

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the final Official Action mailed February 9, 2005 and the Advisory Action mailed July 21, 2005. Claims 1-12, 14-30, 32-48 and 50-57 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 19 and 37 have been amended. A request for continued examination of this application (RCE) is being transmitted with this amendment.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 15, 16, 18-24, 26, 33, 34, 36-42, 44, 51, 52 and 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,272,283 ("*Nguyen*"). The Examiner also rejected claims 7, 5-13, 25, 27-34, 43 and 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nguyen* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,778,064 ("*Kori*"). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 14, 17, 32, 35, 50 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nguyen* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,036 ("*Ryan*").

Applicants' invention is directed to preventing the unauthorized copying of signals that contain embedded data restricting or limiting the copying of the signals, for example, signals containing embedded CGMS (copy generation management system) data or digital-watermark data. As explained in Applicants' specification, the conversion of such signals from one format to another format, for example, from one color video format (such as luminance Y and color difference signals R-Y and B-Y) to another color video format (such as the NTSC television format) or from one compression format (such as MPEG) to another compression format (such as VD method), often results in the elimination or degradation of the embedded copy-protection data. As a result, the copy-protection data in the converted signal may not be detected and, therefore, the converted signal may be copied in violation of the restrictions placed upon copying by these data.

Nguyen is not directed to the problem addressed by Applicants' invention and neither discloses nor suggests a solution. The input signal to the *Nguyen* apparatus is a signal read from a DVD by DVD disk drive 48. *Nguyen* states:

Copy-protection is included on DVD disks by embedding code 46 on a DVD disk. Code 46 is read by DVD disk drive 48 and sent to DVD player 42, which is a software application that controls playing DVD videos by DVD disk drive 48 using standard operating-system functions and drivers (not shown). An encryption key from code 46 is passed up to DVD navigator 40, a higher-level application that controls playing of one or more DVD videos. DVD navigator 40 does not communicate directly with TV encoder 50 since the hardware present varies from one PC to another. Instead, display driver 30 receives the encryption key from DVD navigator 40 and writes it to key register 52 in TV encoder 50.

(*Nguyen* at column 6, lines 15-28; emphasis added.)

A DVD "is an optical disc storage media format." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVD>. As further explained in Wikipedia:

DVD-Video discs require a DVD-drive with a MPEG-2 decoder (e.g. a DVD-player or a DVD computer drive with a software DVD player). Commercial DVD movies are encoded using a combination of MPEG-2 compressed video and audio of varying formats (often multi-channel formats as described below).

Id. (emphasis added.)

One skilled in the art would understand, therefore, that the input signal read by DVD disk drive 48 ("using standard operating system functions and drivers") undergoes several format conversions before being transmitted to DVD navigator 40, namely, a conversion from an optical format to an electrical format and a conversion from a compressed MPEG-2 format to an uncompressed format. The encryption key from code 46 on the DVD apparently is detected by either DVD navigator 40 or display

driver 30 (*Nguyen* provides no specific disclosure in this regard). In either case, *Nguyen* detects the copy-protection information after the input signal has undergone several conversions in format.

Claim 1 recites, among other elements, signal conversion means for converting an input signal to said apparatus to a converted signal; [and] determination means for examining said input signal for additional information added to said input signal indicating that copying of said input signal is limited or prohibited. Independent claims 19 and 37 contain similar limitations. *Nguyen* discloses no such determination means. On the contrary, *Nguyen's* determination means examines the converted signal for the additional information and, therefore, suffers from the same shortcomings as the prior art discussed in Applicants' specification.

The Examiner relies upon *Kori* or *Ryan*, in combination in each case with *Nguyen*, in rejecting Applicants' dependent claims. Neither of these references, however, overcomes the deficiencies of *Nguyen*.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this application. If for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, however, he is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that he may have.

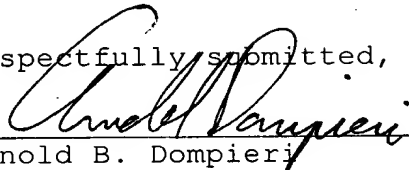
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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